

AMIAA NEWS

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AMAA NEWS

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FRONT COVER PICTURE:

AMAA Peninsula Group Committee members
pictured with Field Director Dikran Youmshakian.
(l to r) Seta Yenikomshian, Kris Gulesserian,
Anahid Gulesserian, Elizabeth Yeghyayan,
Margo Gulesserian, Nora Balabanian and
Anayis Adrouny.

Jesus, The Greatest Gift

Andrew Torigian

There were no Christmas trees, no tinsel and no trinkets. There was a stable, a man, a woman, a baby and love. This was the gift that was presented to us on that night in Bethlehem 2000 years ago. God gave us His love unconditionally. He expressed this love by the humble beginnings of life on earth through our Savior. In His birth, God was relating to us that the world may consider the lowliest or insignificant. To God, we are all significant, which is why the best that God had was offered to us. It is ours to accept this greatest gift of all, the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

In John 17:20 Jesus said, "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word."

Imagine, 2000 years ago our Savior was praying for us! Yes, Jesus was praying for you and me! He goes on to say in John 17:22-23, **"I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."**

How can we keep the Good News about Jesus to ourselves when we know He prayed for all those who believe in Him and His prayer reveals that God loves us as much as His own Son? It was because of this incredible love, that God gave us the best He had to offer: His Son, Jesus Christ. We need to witness to allow others to be included in His prayers as they turn to Christ. This is the best gift you can give to all those with whom you come in contact.

Remember God always invites us to go back to Bethlehem with the shepherds, in order for us to see a new future, a new hope, and renew our faith.

Քրիստոս Ծնաւ եւ Յայտնեցաւ. ձեզի, մեզի Մեծ Աւետիս:

Krisdos dzenav yev haidnetzav, tzezi, mezi Medz Avedis.

(Christ is born and is revealed, good tidings to you and to us).

Friends of AMAA Peninsula Group Meet For Their Annual Luncheon

The Friends of the AMAA Peninsula Group were formed in 1960 motivated by the educational needs of Armenian children in the Middle East. A group of twelve dedicated ladies agreed to have monthly informal luncheons, organize a group and raise funds to help needy students in Lebanon and Syria. This group, a Protestant-sponsored organization, soon became ecumenical in representation to include Armenians of all denominations.

The group had their Annual Luncheon on Friday, December 7. The hosts this year were Mr. and Mrs. Ike and Kris Gulesserian of Los Altos, CA. Over 50 people attended.

Mrs. Margo Gulesserian, the current Chairperson of the group, welcomed the guests. Rev. Nerses Balabanian, Pastor of the Calvary Armenian Congregational Church, offered the prayer and introduced the guest speaker Dikran Youmshakian, Field Director of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA).

After lunch, Mr. Youmshakian thanked the group for their generous support, updated them on the recent economic and political difficulties in the area and presented a video on AMAA ministries in the Middle East. The members of the Peninsula Group were delighted to learn how their support had impact on the lives of children in the Middle East in a positive way. The group sponsors ten students each year providing \$2,500.00.

The event was a great opportunity of fellowship and also an occasion to praise God through singing Christmas hymns.

Special thanks to the hosts, Ike and Kris Gulesserian, for opening their home and hosting this event. We thank the committee



members and those who prepared the food. Thank you to all who participated and supported the event. □

Spiritual Corner

Gift Giving

by Dikran Youmshakian

Two men were discussing what they were going to buy their wives for Christmas. One of the men said, "This year I think I will just wrap myself up as a present and give myself to my wife." To which the other man replied, "Well I am not giving my wife much either."

What do we give and to whom do we give when it is Jesus' birthday that we celebrate? This is a question that we should ask when we celebrate Christmas.

Gift-giving is an expression of love and thankfulness. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son" (John 3:16). Apostle Paul to the Corinthians said, "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift" (2 Cor. 9:15).

Gifts on Christmas should be given to God and to Jesus. Yet we often forget Him and instead spend days wondering what we should give each other, to the point that we even consider wrapping ourselves as a gift. There is no wrong in gift-giving; it expresses our love and thankfulness. Let us however not forget God, He gave his Son out of His indescribable love, and let us put more sense in our giving. First, let us give ourselves to the Lord. Make Christmas the day of our re-birth through Christ and then give with love and compassion not only to those who we love, but to those who need our love and care.

"Truly I tell you, just as you did to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:40) □

School Supplies to Armenian Children in Iraq

Forty Armenian students in Baghdad, Iraq were happily surprised during the Holiday Season with gifts from the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA). Each child received a backpack of much needed school supplies. It was the gesture of love more than the value of the items sent.

In November, AMAA was contacted by Sergeant John M. Meguerian of the US Army, currently serving in Iraq, informing the Association about the urgent need of school supplies for elementary students at the Baghdad United Armenian School. In response to this appeal, the staff at the AMAA headquarters prepared packages, which were sent to Iraq in time for the Holiday season. The Baghdad United Armenian School is the only Armenian school serving the Armenian community in Baghdad.

The first school, Saint *Tarkmantchatz* School in Iraq was established in 1852. In 1901 the Zabelian School for Girls was established. In 1917 both schools merged under Saint *Tarkmantchatz* Co-Ed School. In 1921 with the flow of new Armenian immigrants settling in Iraq, a third school – Sevadjan School – was established managed by the AGBU. In 1949 Sevadjan School and Saint *Tarkmantchatz* merged. The new school had a record number of 1200 students in 1974, when unfortunately, it was taken over by the government and was renamed Ibn Al Haythem Public School. Armenian and religion classes were cancelled. After several years and with hard work, Armenians were able to regain the ownership of the school. The student body had dropped to 750 students with only 250 Armenians.

Today, the situation is much more difficult with the war in Iraq and the only Armenian School serving in Baghdad struggles to keep its doors open. Student population has further dropped.

The symbolic gifts sent to the 40 elementary students will be a beacon of hope for the school and the struggling Armenian community in Iraq.

Those who want to participate in this effort can contact the AMAA office at 31 West Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652 or call 201-265-2607. □



AMAA Staff members Marie Viducich, Marie Ziegler and Gildardo Blandon preparing School Supplies for the Iraq Armenian Children

Ode to God

*Vanessa Gertmenian-Wang**

*Who is God?
Is he a person, a spirit?
If you shouted His name from mountaintop,
Would He hear it?*

*Is God a he, a she, an it, a they?
I can't seem to keep these thoughts at bay.
I don't know the answer so I guess
God wants to keep it that way.*

*Even though I can't see God, I know He's there.
I can feel His presence in the air.
He watches us as we do what we do,
Sometimes I wish I could see Him too.*

*God is the creator of everything.
Men, women, and some things in between.
Nothing would be here without His help.
Thank God He found us.*

*God controls everything far and wide.
The oceans, the trees, the land that we ride.
Sometimes everything works outright,
Sometimes everything goes all wrong.
No matter, what, we all move along.*

*I thank God as often as I can,
So should every other woman and man.
I try to be the best person I can be,
I want God to be proud of me.*

*So here's my thank you to God the great,
He's the one who controls my faith.
God helps us everyday.
He cares for us in every way.*

** Vanessa Gertmenian-Wang (8th Grade) is the granddaughter of Paul Gertmenian and great-granddaughter of the late Henry Gertmenian*

"Children Helping Children" October Event in Boston A Glowing Success

Children Helping Children held on October 18 at the Belmont Country Club, which was the 12th annual event of the AMAA's Boston area Orphan & Child Care Committee, was a glowing success, attracting an unprecedented 180 supporters who donated a record amount to help needy children in Armenia. The Annual Luncheon, featuring an exciting live auction hosted by ABC radio's Jordan Rich and a fashion show highlighted by child models in exquisite fashions by Elite Bebe of Belmont, also garnered full sponsorships for 30 Armenian Orphans.

The theme "Children Helping Children" emphasized the difference even a small contribution can make. Contributors and attendees represented all Boston area churches, and the reception continues to be open to all who share the goal of lifting up underprivileged children in Armenia and Karabagh.

Supporters arrived early on the crisp Fall afternoon to browse the bounty of gift items available for auction. Some of the most sought after items included Red Sox/Yankee and private box New England Patriot tickets, Bruce Springsteen and Wicked tickets, the framed Armenian Alphabet, as well as gift packages offering Lenox china, restaurant certificates, rare wines, catering, and so much more. In the end, attendees celebrated their win-win afternoon of sensational socializing, fabulous food, glorious gifts and, best of all, the heartwarming feeling of helping children in need.

During the event, the volunteer members of the Committee (past and present) were honored for their tireless efforts. AMAA Field Director Mr. Dikran Youmshakian recognized the group on behalf of the AMAA and handed to the chairperson, Candace Simourian individual certificates for each committee member.

The Program also included the showing of a DVD on Child Care Programs in Armenia. The participants were all moved to see how much difference their support makes, bringing hope to an otherwise hopeless young generation and needy children in Armenia.

The Committee members are all volunteers who welcome new members of all ages and all backgrounds. Anyone wishing to join the committee or make a donation is encouraged to contact Michele Simourian at 508.785.0569. All contributions are tax deductible. □



Children Helping Children event committee member Susan Covo and model daughters (above). Guests browsing through the auction items (below).

Rebecca's gift through Tzedakah

Tzedakah is a Hebrew word most commonly translated as charity. It refers to a religious obligation to perform a philanthropic act.

Rebecca Ottinger, age 14, takes this obligation seriously. Money that she collected in her Tzedakah Box from her allowance and from teaching cello, she voluntarily donated to the AMAA to sponsor a needy child in Armenia.

Rebecca's father is Jewish and mother Sharon L. Kalemkarian is Armenian. Rebecca and her brother and sister were raised in the Jewish faith, but they also attended Armenian Church and celebrated Christian Holidays. They all had their bar & bat mitzvahs, and they are good Armenians. No wonder Rebecca would donate her small savings to care for her little brothers and sisters in Armenia.

We congratulate little Rebecca and appreciate her sincere act of love. We pray that God will bless her and make her a great witness to others.

Please encourage your children to do the same. Contact AMAA and help your children in their act of charity for children who need our love and care.

Several children in Armenia and Karabagh still await for a caring person to sponsor them. Below are the profiles of some. A gift of \$250 will sponsor one child and his/her family for a whole year. Please consider this gift of love and sponsor one or more children that need our care:



Rebecca with her Tzedakah box

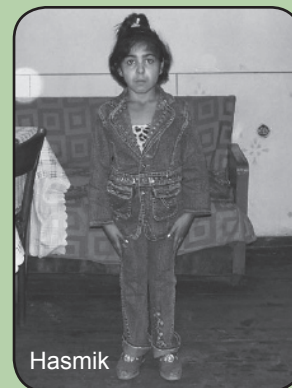
Hasmik was born in Sisian, Armenia. she is 10 years old. She suffers from double-sided dislocation of the hip joints. Hasmik has three brothers and two sisters. They live in one rented room. The toilet and the bathroom are in great disrepair.

Narine was born in Sisian, Armenia. She is seven years old. Her father Samvel has no permanent job. Her mother Arousiak takes care of the family. Narine has three brothers and two sisters. They live in a rented two-room wooden house.

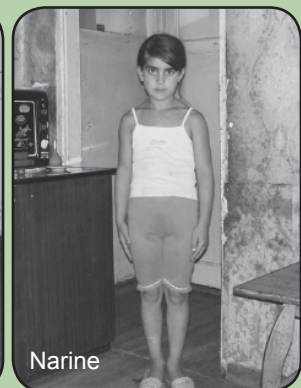
Ashot was born in Noyemberian, Armenia,. He is five years old. His father Armen is a forestry guard. His mother Lilit is unemployed. Ashot has a 2-year-old sister. The father's salary is not enough to sustain the family. They live in two rented rooms with no kitchen, no bathroom and no water supply. They bring water from outdoors.

Anna was born in Gogaran village, Armenia. She is 10 years old. Her father Albert breeds cattle and mother Hasmik takes care of the family. Anna, with her parents, grandmother and four brothers live in a trailer. The toilet and water source are outdoors. They have no bathroom and during rain storms the water leaks into the trailer.

Smbat was born in Artik, Armenia. He is eight years old. Smbat has one brother. Their father has abandoned them and now they live with their grandmother in Sisian in two rooms provided by the village authorities. The rooms are very dark, the furnishings are old and badly worn.



Hasmik



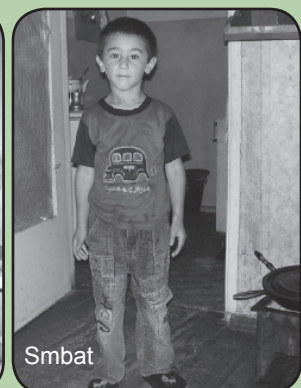
Narine



Ashot



Anna



Smbat

Yes, I want to sponsor _____ child(ren).

Enclosed is my contribution of \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Tel: _____ E-mail: _____

Please make your tax deductible donations to AMAA - 31 W. Century Rd., Paramus, NJ 07652. To make a contribution with a credit/debit card or electronic debit to checking account, please call AMAA at 201.265.2607

A Cardiologist

With A Loving Heart

Dr. Jean-Charles Meguerditchian, from Lyon, France has been volunteering in AMAA's Nerses and Arpine Aynilian Medical Clinic in Yerevan, Armenia for eight years.

This much sought-after doctor's reputation has spread like wild fire. People with all kinds of diseases come to see him from Yerevan and beyond. At times he responds to house call requests in the evenings or weekends. Here, instead of finding one patient to treat, he is often surprised by the large number of unexpected patients. During his 13 week service each year, Dr. Meguerditchian has treated 700 patients.

Dr. Meguerditchian was born in Valence. He is the son of the late Rev. Dikran Meguerditchian who has pastored several Armenian Evangelical Churches in France. He first came to Armenia very reluctantly at the relentless insistence of his pastor in the year 2000. He had no desire to go to a former Soviet Union country. The three-week visit, during which he treated needy patients in AMAA's Aynilian clinic, changed his perspective on Armenia and life itself. Ever since then, he has been coming to Armenia. During the past few years, he has been coming three months a year to treat patients in Armenia. Dr. Meguerditchian feels very sad when the time of his departure from Armenia approaches. He is deeply moved when patients ask him, "Who will take care of us when you are not here?" The doctor who once reluctantly came to Armenia is now reluctant to leave Armenia.

Dr. Meguerditchian primarily treats patients with blood circulation problems. He also treats patients with rare diseases that other doctors avoid.

Garoush is a man in his seventies. He entered the clinic, wanting to see "the doctor". All the patients in the waiting room turned their faces, trying to avoid his sight. Garoush's skin was white and full of sores. He had a leprosy-like skin disease. He told Dr. Meguerditchian that all the hospitals had turned him down. This was his last hope. Dr. Meguerditchian's initial reaction was to turn him down too. After all, he was not a skin specialist. Yet, he felt God's call to help the man. Garoush returned to the clinic a week later. His disease had not disappeared, but the sores were far less painful now. He can at least function. Two weeks later, Garoush came again. His disease had gone. His skin's normal color was restored and the sores had disappeared. Garoush was healed. Dr. Meguerditchian believes this to be God's miraculous healing. His treatments, though administered by much prayer, were only meant to prevent further deterioration. On a future visit, Garoush told the doctor that AMAA was his last hope and that he had decided to commit suicide if AMAA's medical staff turned him down.

Emma, a 70 year old woman had her leg caught under a car wheel and her muscles and tissues were severely damaged. Doctors had mistreated her causing more damage. Dr. Meguerditchian



patiently treated her leg every day. Emma's leg tissue is slowly being restored.

Since his first visit to Armenia, Dr. Meguerditchian has discovered his life mission to be serving the poor and the needy of Armenia in the name of Christ. The presence of Christ is indeed evident in his loving care for his patients. He truly obeys Jesus' command to "Go...heal the sick... cleanse those who have leprosy. Freely you have received, freely give." (Matthew 10:6-9) □

APC Missions Committee Raises Funds for Christian Camps

The Armenian Presbyterian Church Missions Committee would like to thank all who sponsored Pastor Berj's Bike Ride in the month of August. We praise God that the goal to raise \$10,000 has been achieved as God led many to support this project.

Because of such donations, 25 boys and girls will have the chance to attend Camp Johnsonburg (PC-USA) and Camp Arevelk (AEUNA) and will be blessed by hearing God's Word and fellowship with other Christians, and by God's grace many will respond to that very grace of God by accepting Christ as their Savior. Only eternity will provide the complete picture of what impact such contributions make to the Kingdom of God. □

The Armenian Evangelical Brethren Church of Glendale Dedicates New Building

"...the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes."

Psalms 118:23

On September 8th, 2007, the Armenian Evangelical Brethren Church (AEBBC) officially dedicated its recently purchased and renovated facility in Glendale, California.

The purchase of the church property on 1800 Lake Street was made in August of 2006 from the New Life Christian Church (Free Methodist). Renovation commenced promptly in December of the same year. Mr. George Shahinian spearheaded the purchasing stage of the project. His initial involvement in the transaction and purchase of the property was significant. The building committee members as of November were Mr. Sarkis Ekimyan (chief contractor), Mr. Aram Karsian, Mr. Yervand Gevorgyan, Mr. Sevag Shanlian and Mrs. Anait Tiratsuyan. An aggressive fundraising campaign also started at this time. Much of the unique features the church is now adorned with were due to the successful fundraising of members and friends of AEBBC. Among these features are more than 30 fiberglass-reinforced Krinkglas® windows throughout both buildings, custom-made and custom-engineered sanctuary lighting by McFadden Trend Lighting, and a full-body immersion, fiberglass baptismal located on the sanctuary stage (concealed as an altar.)

The facility was in full use beginning on June 3, 2007. Almost immediately plans went underway to have a special building dedication service on the evening of September 8th. By August, with the assistance of the AMAA, the church was able to pay off its debt



Dr. Steven H. Aharonian brings AMAA's greetings

to the New Life Christian Church.

The evening of September 8th marked the culmination of the greatest undertaking the church and ministry has experienced in its recent history. It was the prayer and hope of the pastor, church, and building committee, that Christ and Christ alone would receive the glory and praise during the service.

The Mayor of the City of Glendale, Mr. Ara James Najarian, was present at the service and welcomed the church to the community saying, "I am so happy to welcome the church amongst our members, residents and citizens, so we can all live with a little more dedication to our Savior Jesus Christ...know that God will bless this work...to continue the good work established by the Armenian Evangelicals."

On behalf of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), its President, Dr. Steven H. Aharonian, represented the AMAA noting, "We are pleased to have brought our small contribution--as the AMAA in making possible the buying of this lovely building." The board and congregation of AEBBC are thankful to the AMAA executive committee, especially Executive Director Mr. Andrew Torigian and President Dr. Aharonian, for their immediate response and assistance during a time of need.

Ms. Janina Morikawa and Rev. Arnold Doi, of the New Life Christian Church officially transferred the Corporate Grant Deed to the property. During an emotional highlight of the service, the previous owners made note of the significant renovation of the facility and their joy in passing on the baton to the new owners. Three prayers of dedication were offered starting with Rev. Doi, Rev. Daniel Chang (Korean pastor of Hope Presbyterian Church which currently uses the facilities of the Silver Lake property), and Rev. John Melkonian.

The Armenian Evangelical Brethren Church looks forward as "the journey continues." The future holds possibilities and unseen blessings. We continue ahead to glorify God and to proclaim the message of salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ. A banquet honoring the 82nd anniversary of the church was held November 3rd at Ambrosia Restaurant in Glendale, CA with great success. Fundraising and ministry plans are on the horizon and the church is alive again—to God be the glory. □



Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church of Havertown, PA Marks Centenary



Four hundred congregants, dignitaries, friends, and guests helped the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church (AMCC) mark its centenary, with a luncheon banquet on Sunday December 2, 2007. The Master of Ceremonies was Albert Momjian, Esq., and the keynote speakers were former pastor Rev. Dr. Peter Doghramji and guest speaker Dr. Tony Campolo.

A major portion of the celebratory luncheon was devoted to remembering the past and honoring those who established and served the church.

The history of the AMCC goes back to the latter years of the 19th Century and the early years of the 20th, when the small community of Protestant and Apostolic Armenians living in Philadelphia organized occasional worship services led by guest preachers and priests.

Following the 1915 massacres of Armenians in Turkey, when a new wave of immigrants increased the Evangelical community, a second Evangelical church was organized in 1920. Within a few short years those two churches were merged to form the AMCC. The AMCC established its home in West Philadelphia in 1924 and in 1964 it moved to its present home in Havertown.

The AMCC congregation is a vital presence in the Armenian community

of Greater Philadelphia providing leadership and impetus to communal harmony and cooperation.

The AMCC congregation has a strong sense of stewardship both locally and worldwide. Besides supporting many of the AMAA's outreach programs, the church recently established a sister church relationship with the Armenian Evangelical Church of Plovdiv, Bulgaria, supporting the church both spiritually and financially.

As of September 2007, Rev. L. Nishan Bakalian serves as the minister of the church. □



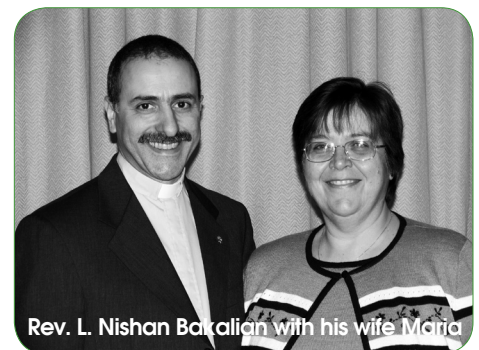
Honored ministers present at the banquet (l to r) Rev. L. Nishan Bakalian, Rev. Hovhannes Karjian, Rev. Gary Schongalla Bowman, Rev. Soghomon Nuyujukian & Rev. Peter Doghramji



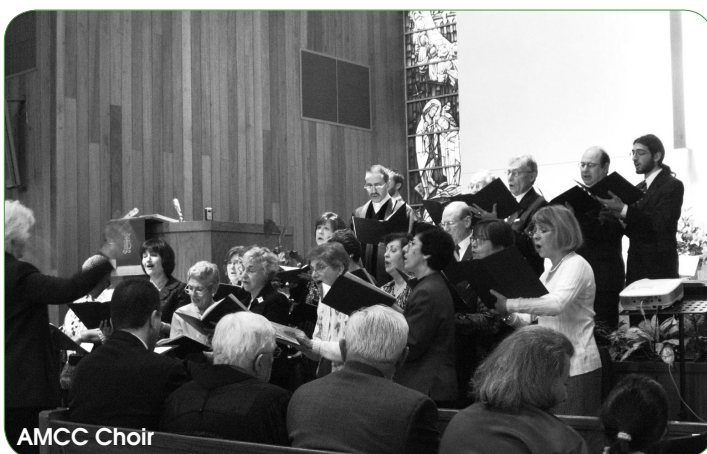
Rev. L. Nishan Bakalian with pastor emeritus Rev. Soghomon Nuyujukian



AMCC Sunday School



Rev. L. Nishan Bakalian with his wife Maria



AMCC Choir



100th Anniversary Banquet

FIELD VISITATIONS

AMAA Field Director Visits Members And Friends On The West Coast



From December 2 to 10, 2007 the Field Director visited AMAA members and friends in Los Angeles, Fresno and San Francisco. Pictured above are two faithful members of the AMAA; Mr. Archie Arzouyan and Mrs. Belle Ashodian. Mr. Arzouyan has been a generous contributor to the AMAA and to the Armenian Evangelical Church of Hollywood. Mrs. Ashodian is an angel sponsoring 225 needy Armenian families in Armenia for the past 10 years. She also sponsors 10 children and provides regular aid to needy Armenians in Bulgaria.

Such visits are important to update our members and donors on current events, mission fields and service ministries. It is also a great opportunity for us to thank our donors for their support.

During the next four months, AMAA Field Director Dikran Youmshakian will continue his visits with the following schedule:

January 7- 14, Los Angeles, CA

AMAA Sunday at the Armenian Evangelical Church of Glendale - January 13, 2008 12:30 pm.

February 9-11, Salem, NH

AMAA Sunday at the Ararat Armenian Congregational Church - February 10, 2008, 11:00 am.

February 22-25, Belmont, MA

AMAA Sunday at the Frist Armenian Church - February 14, 2008, 11:00 am.

March 1-8, Los Angeles, CA

AMAA Sunday at most Armenian Evangelical Churches - March 2, 2008

March 28-31, Watertown, MA

AMAA Sunday at the Armenian Memorial Church - March 30, 2007, 11:00 am.

April 4-10, Fresno, CA

AMAA Sunday at the First Armenian Presbyterian Church - April 6, 2008, 11:00 am.

April 11-15, Detroit, MI

AMAA Sunday at the Armenian Congregational Church of Detroit - April 13, 2008, 11:00 a.m.

During these visits, the Field Director will be available for personal visits to answer any questions. Those who are interested can contact AMAA office at 201.265.2607 or e-mail him at dyamaa@amaa.org

Meet Our Staff...

Mr. Gildardo Blandon is an important part of office support here at AMAA headquarters. He puts the muscle to many things that need to get done. His job is very diverse being responsible for packing the many shipments we send, all the large mailings (e.g., Our Daily Bread booklets, AMAA News, special appeals, etc.), and general maintenance of the property. He is an efficient worker and does whatever is necessary to get the job done. We are fortunate to have him on the AMAA staff.

Mr. Blandon was born and raised in Columbia. He has lived in New Jersey for 20 years and for 17 of those years, he has been employed by AMAA. He is married with two children.



BOOK SERVICE PROGRAM

BOOKS

A CONCISE HISTORY OF THE ARMENIAN PEOPLE, by George A. Bournoutian, *Examines the history of the Armenians in relation to that of the rest of the world.* pb. # 316..... \$35.00

ACADEMIES FOR ANATOLIA, by Frank A Stone, *A Study of the Rationale, Program, and Impact of the Educational Institutions Sponsored by the American Board in Turkey, 1830-2005*, 400 pp, #325 \$39.99

THE ARMENIAN ANSWER, by Richard G. Melikian, *Take a walk into the future of the Armenian people.* #168 \$5.00

ARMENIAN CHRISTIANITY - THE FAITH OF A NATION, by Rev. Dr. Aharon Sapsejian, *A historical look at Christianity in the Armenian culture.* pb. # 252..... \$10.00

ARMENIAN HISTORY TIMELINE, by Hagop & Marilyn Arshagouni, 52 pp, hc, No. 289 \$15.00

AN ARMENIAN FAMILY REUNION, by Mitchell Kalpakgian. *A Lifetime of Unforgettable and Delightful Stories.* 159 pp, pb. # 317..... \$18.00

ARMENIAN NEEDLELACE & EMBROIDERY, by Alice Odian Kasparian, *A photographic collection of more than 100 priceless specimens (a third in color)*, 127 pp, hc. # 120 \$15.00

ARMENIANS RESOLVE TO SURVIVE TURKISH GENOCIDE, by Douglas Y. Haig, 258 pp., pb. No. 273..... \$15.00

A BRIEF HISTORY OF ARMENIA, by Rev. Sarkis Papajian, 134 pp, pb, No. 140..... \$5.00

THE BURNING TIGRIS, by Peter Balakian, 475 pp, hc, # 306 \$26.95

BLESSINGS IN BITTER CUPS, by Rev. Giragos H. Chopourian, Ph.D., *Tragic, yet triumphant story of a small clan of successful working class Armenians, living in Turkey, just prior to the outbreak of World War I*, 250 pp, hc. # 305 \$20.00

CLAWS OF THE CRAB: GEOORGIA AND ARMENIA IN CRISIS, by Stephen Brook, 354 pp., hc. # 237 \$25.00

CONVERSATIONS WITH CONTEMPORARY ARMENIAN ARTISTS, by Jackie Abramian, 190 pp., pb, # 258 \$7.00

DAYS OF TRAGEDY IN ARMENIA, by Henry H. Riggs. *An American Missionary born in Ottoman Empire, gives a first hand account of events in Kharbert during the Genocide*, 220 pp, pb, # 267 \$25.00

DON'T LET THE GOATS EAT THE LOQUAT TREES, by Thomas Hale, *The adventures of an American surgeon in Nepal.* #257 \$10.00

ESCAPE TO MUSA DAGH OR THE BANISHMENT OF ZEITOUN AND SUEDEIA'S REVOLT, by Rev. D. Antreassian, 74 pp, pb, No. 234..... \$7.00

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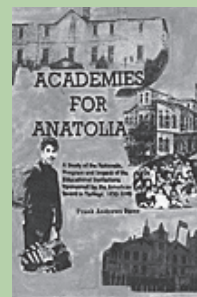
By Frank Andrews Stone

Since 1830 the institutions of learning in Turkey sponsored by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (today called Wider Church Ministries), have helped educate the Armenians of Asia Minor.

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The author, Dr. Frank Stone, is a Professor Emeritus at the University of Connecticut. Stone's specialization in international education is the Middle East. He has taught at the American College, Tarsus, Turkey from 1953-1966. Since then he's made ten study trips to the Middle East.

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Ընթացիկ տարին, 2008-ը, Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանական Ընկերակցութեան Հիմնադրութեան 90-ամեայ յոբելեանն է: Այս առթիւ Հայ Աւետարանական Համաշխարհային Խորհուրդը ուրախ եւ երախտապարտ սրտով կը յայտնէ իր սէրն ու հիացումը Հայ Աւետարանականին: Ազգապարծման այս ընկերակցութեան ծառայութիւնը անկասկած մեր պատմութեան հոյակապ էջերէն մին կը կազմէ եւ իր ինստիտուցիոնալ բազմաբարձր իրազործումները կը լեցնեն Հայ կեանքը՝ հայրենիքի թէ՛ Արտասահմանի տարածքին:

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Աւետարանականը յատուկ աշխատանք կը տանի, որ

Հայ Աւետարանական եկեղեցիներ դառնան բարին իրաւ իմաստով աւետարանական, այսինքն, Քրիստոսի սիրոյ փրկութեան եւ խաղաղութեան Աւետարանը տարածող եկեղեցիներ:

Անտարակոյս, Սփիւռքահայ մեր պատմութեան անցող ինը տասնամեակներուն Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանական Ընկերակցութիւնը եղաւ աղետաւոր հայութեան «Բարի Սամարացին», եւ մեր ժողովուրդի տագնապալի օրերուն, ան որպէս «Հրեշտակ գուարթուն» հասաւ ամէնուն՝ քրիստոնէական քաղցր ոգիով եւ մարդասիրական ազնիւ զգացումով: Ան Հայ ժողովուրդին բերաւ իր ծառայութիւնը մէկէ աւելի ուղիներով: Ան իր նպաստը բերաւ Հայ գիրին եւ դպրութեան, Հայ եկեղեցիին եւ մշակոյթին: Արտասահմանի մէջ մանաւանդ, եւ Հայաստանի Երրորդ Հանրապետութեան անկախացումի օրերէն ասդին, մեծ եղաւ անոր օժանդակութիւնը հայաբնակ երկիրներու մէջ՝ կրթական, դպրոցաշինական, մարդասիրական, աւետարանական եւ հոգեւոր մարզերուն մէջ. օժանդակութիւն մը, որուն համար Հայց. Աւետարանական Եկեղեցին երախտապարտ կը մնայ անոր տեսչական Հիմնադրներուն ու վաստակաւոր մշակներուն:

Անոր խնամատիրական դերը իր սկզբնական տարիներուն՝ արկածահարութեան ենթարկուած մեր ժողովուրդի բեկորներուն Հանդէպ, վերածեց Աւետարանական բուժիչ ձեռքի մը, երկարած մեր վէրքերուն, Աւետարանի Բարի Սամարացիին չափ սրտառուչ:

Քսաներորդ դարու Սփիւռքի հայոց պատմութեան ամենէն ցայտուն գլուխներէն մին կը կազմէ Աւետարանականի պատմութիւնը, անոր կեանքն ու օգտաշատ գործը: Համայնքային մեր կարիքներու երկունքին արգասիքը եղող այս կազմակերպութիւնը կարողացաւ դիմագրաւել նոր պայմաններու պարտադրած մտահոգութիւնները: Իրեն պատիւ բերող անաչառութեամբ ան ջատագով հանդիսացաւ բարեսիրական, կրթական, հոգեւոր ու մշակութային եւ առնչակից այլ մարզերու մէջ: Անոր բախտորոշ դերը անջնջելի պիտի մնայ սփիւռքահայ ժամանակակից պատմութեան մէջ: Անոր գործունէութիւնը ամէն տարի ընդարձակուեցաւ, զարգացաւ նոր գաղափարներով, նոր ծրագիրներով եւ ան դարձաւ ոչ միայն խնամատիրական մարմին մը, վերակառուցանելով մեր փլուզած եկեղեցիներն ու հաստատութիւնները, այլ նաեւ ան եղաւ հայկական եւ քրիստոնէական դաստիարակութեան աստարտող մեծ կազմակերպութիւն մը, իր անմիջական հոգածութեան տակ ունենալով Հայ Աւետարանական կրթարաններ՝ մանկապարտէզէն մինչեւ համալսարանական ուսումնական ստացող աշակերտներու կրթաթոշակ հայթայթելով: Այսօր հազարաւոր

չըջանաւարտներ, որոնք պատուաւոր քաղաքացիներ դարձած են Մայր Հայրենիքի կամ Սփիւռքի զանազան երկիրներու մէջ, երախտապարտ են Աւետարանչականին:

Պատանեկան, երիտասարդական, մշակութային, կրթական, խնամատիրական, հրատարակչական, աւետարանչական եւ այլ բազմերես իր գործունէութեամբ, մեծանուն այս Ընկերակցութիւնը իր երկարատեւ եւ ժրաջան ծառայութեամբ փայլուն մէկ ապացոյցը կը կազմէ մեր ցեղի կենսունակութեան:

Կոտորակուած Հայութեան զաւակներուն բարօրութիւն պարգեւելու վճռակամութեամբ, սրտաբեկ մեր «Մնացորդաց»ին Համար ան վստահութեան աղբիւր դարձաւ դէպի Հայութեան ապագան:

Իսկ այսօր, ակնարկ մը միայն Աւետարանչականի պաշտօնաթերթ AMAA News-ի էջերուն, բաւական է ճանչնալու անոր ներկայ բեղուն կեանքը, լուսամիտ եւ հեռատես յանձնառութիւնները: Հոն կը հանդիպինք Հայաստանի եւ գաղթաշխարհի մէջ Աւետարանչականի գլխութեան եւ կրթութեան, հոգեւոր եւ մշակութային, եկեղեցաշինութեան եւ ազգաշինութեան ընդարձակ գործունէութեան:

Հարկ է նաեւ յիշել, թէ Աւետարանչական նիւթական ներդրումին չափ կարեւոր է այն բարոյական պատկերը, որ

ան կը ներկայացնէ մեր Հայ աւետարանական հաւաքական կեանքին մէջ: Ան ոսկեղէն օղակը կը հանդիսանայ միացնելու աշխարհացրիւ բոլոր Հայ աւետարանականները եւ միանգամայն վայելելու անոնց նեցուկը:

Յօդելինական այս տարին ոչ միայն առիթ մըն է գնահատելու Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութեան բեղմնաւոր եւ բոլորանուէր ծառայութիւնը մասնաւորապէս Հայաստանեայց Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիին, եւ ընդհանրապէս Հայ ազգին, այլ նաեւ հեռահայեաց ակնարկ մը նետել անոր ապագային: Ինչպէ՞ս պիտի դիմագրաւենք Աւետարանչականի յաջորդ ինխնամեայ կեանքը, որ զայն պիտի Հասցնէ 22-րդ դարու սեմին: Ի՞նչ նոր ծրագիրներով պիտի զարգացնենք, զօրացնենք զայն, որպէսզի ան կարենայ շարունակել իր օգտաշատ ծառայութիւնները որ ապագայ սերունդները նոյն եռանդով շարունակեն իրենց թողուած ժառանգութիւնը պահպանել եւ ուճացնել:

Թող երկար ապրի Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութիւնը, որպէսզի ան շարունակէ օրհնութեան աղբիւր դառնալ շատերու:

Վեր. Դոկտ. Վահան Յ. Թուրիկեան
Գործադիր Տնօրէն՝

Հայ Աւետ. Համաշխարհային Խորհուրդի



Most recently Natalie Aroyan was one of the five finalists of the Australian Singing Competition 2007 Mathy Awards, and won the first prize in the popular audience vote and was awarded a special \$5,000 prize. As a Mathy Awards Finalist, she was also awarded the prestigious Nelly Apt Scholarship of \$15,000 to attend the Israel International Vocal Arts Institute Program in Tel Aviv. Natalie is a member of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Sydney, Australia. She and her parents, Sarkis and Lucy Aroyan are major supporters of the Armenian Missionary Association of Australia.



AMAA Executive Director Andy Torigian, in his capacity as President of the Armenian Nursing and Rehabilitation Center (ANRC) in Emerson, NJ, greeting and welcoming Karekin II the Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians to ANRC.

Rev. Samuel Aghapegian

Rev. Aghapegian was born in Aligoudarz, Iran in 1947 into the family of Samson and Herignaz Aghapegians. He grew up in the Armenian Evangelical Church in Tehran.

Rev. Aghapegian studied at the Near East School of Theology and graduated in 1984 with a Bachelors degree in Theology.

From July 1984 to 1980 Rev. Aghapegian and his wife Arpineh Mahshigian served together from July 1984 to 1989 the Armenian Evangelical Churches in Ekizolukh and Keorkune (Kessab region), Syria.

Rev. Samuel Aghapegian was ordained to the pastorate in August of 1987.

He left the churches because of health problems and came to Beirut in 1990-1991 to serve with his wife in the Center for Armenian Handicapped in Lebanon taking care of the elderly and leading the Evangelical worship services of both, the Center for the Armenian Handicapped and the Armenian Sanatorium of Azounieh in Lebanon.

Rev. Aghapegian was admitted to the hospital on Wednesday Nov. 14, 2007 due to a cerebral stroke. He passed away on Nov. 15, 2007. He is survived by his wife Arpineh, his mother Herignaz, his sisters Anna of USA and Ardzemnig of Tehran and his brother in the USA.

Funeral services were held on Thursday Nov. 22, 2007 at the Armenian Evangelical Church of Nor Marash (Bourj Hammoud), Lebanon. □

Melcon Garabed Melconian

Melcon G. Melconian, a prominent member of New York's Armenian community passed away peacefully on Nov. 23, at his home in Princeton, NJ, with his family at his bedside.



Melcon was born in Baghdad on June 23, 1929, the eldest of the three children. After high school at the American Jesuit College in Baghdad, he was educated at the University of Birmingham in England, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering. He came to the U.S. for post-graduate studies, earning a Master of Science degree in Petroleum Engineering from University of Tulsa, in Oklahoma.

Following in the footsteps of his father, Melcon dedicated his 45 year career to the oil industry. He entered the industry as a chemical engineer, working several years at Phillips Petroleum and then at Foster Wheeler. In 1962,

he joined Mobil Oil, where he worked for 32 years. Later he established an oil consulting firm and developed a lecture series delivered to chemical engineers around the world.

Soon after moving to New York City in 1959, Melcon met Hilda Berejikian. They married two years later and enjoyed the 1960s together as a socially active couple in Manhattan, Los Angeles, and London. Their first son, Gregory, arrived in 1969, promptly followed by a second son, Philip. Shortly thereafter, the family moved to Princeton, NJ. Together with his wife, Melcon emphasized the importance of family, faith and community service. He actively participated in and supported many organizations, such as the AMAA, AGBU, Armenia Fund, Armenian Assembly, etc. He was valued by his peers for his balanced views, inclusive approach, and desire to advance the mission of each organization.

Reared in the Armenian Church, Melcon actively practiced his faith throughout his life. He joined his wife Hilda regularly for services at the Armenian Evangelical Church of New York, where he also served as moderator and most recently as chairman of the Ministerial Search Committee.

He is survived by his wife, Hilda, sons Philip and Gregory, daughter-in-law Nyire, grandson Henry, brother Vahe of Downingtown, PA and sister Marlene Setrakian of Beirut, Lebanon. The funeral service was held at St. Vartan Cathedral in New York City. Memorial donations were made to AMAA and St. Vartan Cathedral. □

Մովսէս Սէմէրճեան

Դասական սովորութիւն է կրկնել նման առիթներով, թէ հաւաքուած ենք այստեղ, յարգանքի մեր վերջին տուրքը մատուցանելու մեզմէ յատուկ բաժնուած հարազատին: Այսօր՝ սակայն, ես կը մերժեմ «յաւէտ» մակբայը:

Ոչ միայն քրիստոնէական հաւատքի անկիւնէն դիտուած յաւիտեական կեանքի յոյսով ակնկալուած միացումի պատճառաւ, այլ այն հաստատ հաւատքէն փխած, որ տասնամեակներու վրայ տարածուած եւ ընկերային կեանքի հետ ընդելուծուած երջանիկ բարեկամութենէ մը ետք կարելի չէ երբէք բաժնուիլ այս հարազատէն:

Իր ծրագրագործ մտքով, ծառայասիրութեամբ, մարզիկի օրհնակելի կենցաղով, ընկերային շեմ զգացումներով, անասկարկ հիւրամեծարութեամբ, հարազատի մօտեցումով, ընկերական վեհանձնութեամբ, մարդկայնական հոգածութեամբ, հանդիսակատար ներկայութեամբ, փնտրուած



զուարթամտութեամբ, անբասիր հայրենասիրութեամբ եւ լուռ ապրուած հաւատքով, Մորիսը դառնաւ էր աննիւթական հարստութիւն մը առանց որուն կարելի չէ երեւակայել շարունակութիւնը մեր կեանքի Աստուածաշնորհը մնացեալ օրերուն:

Շրջանակի մարդ էր Մորիսը... եւ շրջանակուած հրապուրիչ գեղեցկութիւնը չորսդին սփռելու բարի պարիկ մ'էր արդարեւ:

Շրջանակի մարդ էր Մորիսը: Ընկերային շրջանակի: Փնտրուած շրջանակի մարդ, յարգուած շրջանակի մարդ: Խի՜նդ ու ժպիտ բաժնող ներկայութիւն: Բոլոր արեւի ջերմութիւն տարածող բարի ներկայութիւն: Անուշահոտ բուրմունքի ակ: Հեզահամբոյր վարմունքի տէր: Կարծր սրտերը հալեցնող: Փակ բականքները քակող քաղձր ներկայութիւն:

Շրջանակի մարդ էր Մորիսը: Իր շրջապատը միշտ հաւաքող, ամուսնացող, փայլեցնող եւ գեղեցկացնելով ընկերութեան հրամցնող՝ շրջանակ:

Արուեստի սիրահար էր Մորիսը: Հայ արուեստի նամանակաւոր:

Զուարթախոն էր Մորիսը: Նոյնիսկ անողորմ հիանդութեան վերջին օրերուն: Գիտակցելով ոսկրածուծային ներմուծման կենսական պէտքին եւ քաջալերելով երիտասարդները որ արին տան հարանման ոսկրածուծի փնտրտուքի ճանապարհին...

... 1999ի, դէպի Հայաստան եւ Ղարաբաղ կատարած իր անդրանիկ այցելութենէն իվեր, Աստուածաշնչային թելադրութենէ տարուած լուռ աշխատանքով, անմիջական ընտանեկան եւ շատ սեղմ պարագաներու գործակցութեամբ՝ սիրով, խանդաղատանքով եւ նուիրումով, իր զգասկներուն նման, ամբողջապէս ստանձնեց Ղարաբաղի ընտանիքի սիրասուն երկու աղջիկներու կրթական բոլոր ծախսերը մինչեւ անոնց համալսարան աւարտելը:

Վերջապէս... Մորիս յատուկ յարաբերութիւն մը ուներ իր Աստուծոյն հետ... եւ ան պատրաստ էր գտնուի իր Ստեղծիչի ներկայութեան...

Սէր եւ յարգանք իր անմեռ յիշատակին:
Զաւէն Խանճեան
Նոյ. 2007

The AMAA Board of Directors and staff also wish to extend their heartfelt condolences to the families of the following deceased friends whose names were submitted to us for publication in the AMAA News.

* **Rebecca Boujicanian**
Watertown, MA

* **Josephine Merjanian**
Los Angeles, CA

* **Memorials designated for AMAA**

90th ANNIVERSARY TRIP TO ARMENIA

What an exciting time in our history - 90 years of service to the Lord!

As part of celebrating this momentous achievement, all friends and members of the AMAA are invited to come to Armenia where we can see first-hand the projects of the AMAA and the historic sites of Armenia on July 14 through July 23, 2008.

There will be customized bus tours to AMAA locations and historic sites. The tour will include lunch and dinner daily with breakfast included at each hotel. The cost and detailed itinerary will be provided at a later date.

It is important to make your hotel reservation for this trip early, as there are limited rooms available in Armenia in the summer. The current room rates per night for doubles are: \$230 for the Marriott Hotel and \$130 for the Congress Hotel.

If you intend to join us on this trip, send your check for the total hotel cost to the AMAA by March 31, 2008 to secure your rooms. Plan to arrive in Yerevan on July 14, 2008 and leave on July 23, 2008.

For further information, please call the AMAA at 201-265-2607.



Armenian Missionary Association of America

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